



The Spoken Gifts And Discernment

Making Sense Of The Vocal Gifts #3

October 4, 2023

The Spoken Gifts And Discernment

The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit:

- Are Given To Fortify And Fulfill The Church In Our Mission
- Equip The Church For Life & Growth

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- **1 Corinthians 12:8–10 (NIV)** — 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

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- **PROPHECY**— A special temporary ability to bring a word, warning, exhortation, or revelation from God, under the direction and impulse of the Holy Spirit
- **DISCERNMENT (DISTINGUISHING) OF SPIRITS**-- The special ability to judge whether prophecies and utterances are from God

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- **SPEAKING IN DIFFERENT KINDS OF TONGUES**—Expressing ourselves under the influence of the Holy Spirit in a language of tongue that we have never learned
- **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES**--The Spirit given ability to understand and communicate the meaning of a message spoken in tongues. A means of edifying the congregation

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A Brief Summary Of Paul's Message To The Church In Corinth.

1 Corinthians 12 :

- 1. Understanding:** Spiritual Gifts are from God's Spirit
- 2. Unity:** like a human body, the Body of Christ has many parts which come together to form one unified body

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1 Corinthians 13:

- The use of the gifts without love is futile

1 Corinthians 14

- The speaking gifts of prophecy, tongues and interpretation are given to bring a message for the common good.

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Two Essentials For The Spoken Gifts To Bring Stability And Make Sense To The Church Of The 21st Century

- 1. The Spoken Gifts And Discernment**
- 2. The Spoken Gifts And Order.**

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The Purpose Of The Spoken Gifts Is:

- To Strengthen The Saints
- To Increase Their Faith
- To Develop Their Christian Character
- To Edify Of The Body

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There Are Three Possible Sources Of Prophecy In Scripture:

- 1. The Evil Or Lying Spirit*
- 2. The Human Spirit*
- 3. The Voice & Direction Of The Holy Spirit*

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We Cannot Accept Everything Which Purports To Be A Divine Message As If It Were From God Directly:

- **Prov 14:15 (NIV)** "A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps."
- **1 John 4:1 (NIV)** "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

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- If You Have The **Spirit Without The Word** You Will **Blow Up**
- If You Have The **Word Without The Spirit** You Will **Dry Up**
- If You Have The **Spirit And The Word** You Will **Grow Up**.
- The Holy Spirit and You – Dennis & Rita Bennett

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What Do We Look For In Judging A Spoken Word To The Body??

1. **Does The Message Line Up With Scripture?**
2. **Is It Encouraging, Comforting, And Strengthening?**
3. **Is It Given In Love?** 1 Cor 13:1-3. "The Greatest Is Love"
4. **Is Jesus Glorified In It?** John 15:26; Rev 19:10;
5. **Is It Relevant?** The Holy Spirit Doesn't Waste Words On Trivia
6. **If It Is Predictive In Nature, Does It Come To Pass?**
 - ***Disobedience Or Failure To Comply Means The Spoken Gift Should Be Disapproved And Judged To Be Wrong***

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Hold On To The Good.

- **1 Th 5:19 (NIV) "Do not put out the Spirit's fire;"**
 - **1 Th 5:20 (NIV) "do not treat prophecies with contempt."**
 - **1 Th 5:21 (NIV) "Test everything. Hold on to the good."**
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- **To Rightly Handle The Spoken Word The Gift Of Holy Spirit Discernment Is Absolutely Necessary**

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Don't Believe Every Spirit – Test Them By The Word & By The Spirit

- ***Not Every Spirit Is Of God – Many False Teachers Are In The World***
- **God Did Not Leave His Church Defenseless. He Has Provided A Spiritual Weapon: The Discerning Of Spirits. A Spiritual Gift For Believers**

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What Is This Gift?

It Is Not:

- The "Gift" Of Suspicion
- The "Gift" Of Fault Finding
- Natural Insight
- Intellectual Discernment

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It Is The Ability To Know “What Is, Or What Is Not, Of God.”

- ***The Gift Of Discerning Of Spirits Is The Capacity To Discern The Source Of A Spiritual Manifestation -- Whether It Is The Holy Spirit, An Evil Spirit, Or Merely The Human Spirit.***
- **We Must Have This Gift In Operation Because We Need To Discern And Know – The Fake From The True**

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When Someone Brings A Prophecy, The Others Should Weigh Carefully What Is Said. That Is Discernment In Action

- **It is Judging By Evidence Whether A Spirit Is Evil Or Of God**
- **It is Seeing Into The Spiritual Realm**

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What Is The Purpose Of This Gift?

- **Because Satan's Strategy Is To Oppose The Gospel**
- **It Alerts Us To The Workings Of Satan**

This Gift Also Functions To Protect The Church:

- **Defensively It Protects From Imposters**
- **Offensively It Helps In Casting Out Evil Spirits**

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People Who Discerned Evil Spirits:

- **Jesus All Through Scripture**
- **Peter In Acts 5 Called Out Ananias & Saphira's Lying Hearts**
- **Peter In Acts 8 He Discerned Simon The Sorcerers False Spirit**
- **Paul In Acts 16 Rebuked The Demon-possessed Girl**
- **How Did They Know? The Spiritual Gift Of Distinguishing Of Spirits**

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Evil Spirits Can Hinder A Nation, A Church, A Family, A Business, That's Why They Must Be Identified And Cast Out

- **Our Call Is To Discern & Distinguish – Before We Accept A Spirit As Being From God**

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Who May Function In This Gift?

- **Anyone That God Chooses**
- **People Who Have Spiritual Leadership & Authority**
- **The Gift Functions Through Those Who Are Spiritual**
- **Person With Great Grace**
- **It Always Falls In Line with Scripture**

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The Bible Lists Several Different Spirits -- How Do We Know Which Spirit It Is We Are Dealing With?

- ***These Spirits Can Be Discerned By The Spirit Of God Revealed To Us By The Spiritual Gift Of Discernment***

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THIS GIFT OF DISCERNMENT WILL

- **Keep Us Alert, Awake, And Aware Of Spiritual Conditions**
- **Keep Us In That Place Of Readiness And Truth**
- **Ensure Us That The Gifts Being Presented Are Given And Approved By The Holy Spirit Of God .**

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The Spirit That Brings People To Christ -- And Brings The Atmosphere Of Love & Unity Is From The Lord

• That Which Brings Disunity, Division, And Confusion, Is Not From God – For God Is Not The Author Of Confusion.

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This Is A Gift That We Need More And More As We See The Day Of The Lord Approaching

- **Discernment, Discretion, And Distinguishing Of Spirits By The Spirit**
 - **Unmasks The Devil And Reveals God's Life-Giving Truth**

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When We See Deception, We Don't Fear, We Don't Panic, We Don't Worry, We Press Into The Lord!

We allow the Holy Spirit

- **to lead us**
- **To protect us**
- **To warn us**
- **To keep us from the deception that is in our world today**